

Date Mailed
May 13, 1998

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Notification by UTELCO, Inc.,
That It Intends to Increase Telephone Rates

6030-TR-103

NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS

On March 31, 1998, the Public Service Commission (Commission) received notification from UTELCO, Inc., that it intends to restructure local rates and increase or decrease other rates and charges for local telephone service at its eight exchanges in Green, Lafayette, Iowa, Dane, and Rock Counties. The changes include a return to flat-rate pricing for local service, reduction of some nonrecurring service charges, and increases for some custom calling features, directory listings, and nonpublished and nonlisted number services. The utility served notice of the increase to its customers on April 1, 1998. Under § 196.215(3)(a), Stats., the proposed rates will become effective June 1, 1998. Customers have the opportunity to petition the Commission for an investigation of the utility's rate increase.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commission will investigate this matter under § 196.215(3)(a), Wis. Stats. If the Commission receives a timely petition from at least 500 customers of the utility requesting that the Commission determine rates, tolls, and charges, the utility's proposed increases may still go into effect; however, the rates will then be subject to refund and further investigation will be necessary.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Commission deems it necessary in order to carry out its duties herein to investigate the books, accounts, practices and activities of UTELCO, Inc., as a public utility. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such investigation will be assessed against and collected from UTELCO, Inc., as a public utility, in accordance with the provisions of § 196.85, Stats., and ch. PSC 5, Wis. Adm. Code.

This action is classified as a Type III action according to § PSC 4.10(3), Wis. Adm. Code. Furthermore, since no unusual circumstances have come to the attention of the Commission which indicate that significant environmental consequences are likely, neither an environmental impact statement under § 1.11, Stats., nor an environmental assessment is required.

Docket 6030-TR-103

Questions on this matter may be directed to Tom Gross of the Telecommunications Division, at (608) 267-2337.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

For the Commission:

Scot Cullen, P.E.
Administrator
Telecommunications Division

RSC:TAG:reb:G:\notice\pending\6030-TR-103